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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011
9:00am
Conference Room 211

Subject: SB 931, SD1 Relating to Early Learning

As the executive director for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC), I represent 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC) supports SB 931, SD1 relating to early learning council and fiscal mapping.

HAEYC recommends that the 2011 Hawaii State Legislature appropriate funds to support operations of the Early Learning Council (established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state's early learning system) so that the momentum and volunteer work of the last four years can be maintained and sustained. HAEYC understands that these are challenging economic times but we cannot let down Hawaii's youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

Please recommend SB 931, SD1 for passage.

The volunteers and staff of Hawaii AEYC would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org.

Thank you for considering this bill.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



Hearing date:
Friday, Feb 25,
2011; 9:00 a.m.
Senate Committee
on Ways and
Means
Room 211

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **SB 931 SD1: Requires the early learning council, with assistance from the department of education, the department of health, and the department of human services, to develop a fiscal mapping study. Requires a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop. Good Beginnings is also a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The following information is provided to help you in your decision-making process.

The Early Learning Council was established by Act 14, Special Session 2008, to develop and administer the early learning system for Hawaii. For the council to produce the full system plan, it will need operational funding for each of the next two fiscal years. They are comprised of volunteers with no full time staff to accomplish the critical development the state's early learning system to benefit all children throughout Hawaii, from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.

We know that the Council is also working on a long-term and fiscally responsible plan to launch such a system. The fiscal mapping study to include the identification and development of a direct funding stream of the system mentioned in this bill is in accordance with this task. Moreover, indications are that the Governor will soon designate the Early Learning Council as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education as mandated in the federal Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Mahalo for your consideration and your support of the Early Learning Council. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; lchun@goodbeginnings.org



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony by Early Learning Council
February 25, 2011
SB 931 SD1 – Relating to Early Learning

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Dee Jay Mailer
CEO of Kamehameha Schools & Vice Chair of the Early Learning Council

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **SB 931 SD1: Requires the early learning council, with assistance from the department of education, the department of health, and the department of human services, to develop a fiscal mapping study. Requires a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.**

I am a member of the State Early Learning Council. I strongly support the work of the Early Learning Council and the need for dedicated funding for council operations to accomplish the critical development the state's early learning system to benefit all children throughout Hawaii, from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.

The Council is also working on a long-term and fiscally responsible plan to launch such a system. Developing a fiscal mapping study to include the identification and development of a direct funding stream of the system is in accordance with this task.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for your consideration.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony by
Early Learning Council
February 25, 2011
S.B. 931 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support of S.B. 931.

Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state’s early learning system. The ELC was chartered to establish a cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable early learning system that ensures a spectrum of quality early learning opportunities for young children from their prenatal period until the time they enter kindergarten.

In establishing the early learning system, the Early Learning Council was directed to coordinate, improve, and expand all existing early learning programs and services by maximizing public and private resources, as well as “[r]ecommend the appropriate proportion of state funds that should be distributed to programs and services across the early learning system, to ensure the most effective and efficient allocation of fiscal resources within the early learning system”.

In keeping with this task and the directives as put forth to the ELC by Act 14, the Early Learning Council requires operational funding for these system building efforts and the Council is also working on a long-term and fiscally responsible plan to launch such a system. Developing a fiscal mapping study to include the identification and development of a direct funding stream including public and private funding to support the early learning system is in accordance with this task.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council